

From: Marc Conover
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/24/02 5:05pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

Marc Conover

23280 NE 15th Street

Redmond, WA 98074

January 24, 2002

Attorney General John Ashcroft

US Department of Justice

950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW

Washington, DC 20530

Dear Mr. Ashcroft:

I would like to see the Microsoft antitrust case settled. As a former program and Multinational OEM Account manager for Microsoft, I understand the rationale behind bringing this case against Microsoft. However, the reasons behind the initial lawsuit have been resolved since the inception of the litigation. At this point, there is no reason to continue with the litigation.

The terms of the settlement are reasonable. In fact, they go beyond what should reasonably be expected of Microsoft. Microsoft has agreed to grant computer manufacturers rights to configure Windows in such a way so that consumers may access non-Microsoft software or Microsoft software. This will result in more choice for the consumer. Isn't this the aim of any antitrust lawsuit? Additionally, Microsoft has agreed not to retaliate against either computer manufacturers or third party distributors who promote the competition's product. This provision should dispel beliefs that Microsoft is acting in a predatory fashion.

The states that have refused to sign on to the settlement agreement are driven by greed. I applaud the Department of Justice's efforts to settle this case. I am hopeful that the settlement is approved by the Court. Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,

Marc Conover